



**QUEEN'S  
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Silberman School of Social Work  
**HUNTER**

# Supporting LGBTQ+ Young People and their Families

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**HUNTER**  
The City University of New York



# LGBTQ

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES



*Northern Ireland Social Care Council*  
**Supporting LGBTQ+ Children  
and Young People**

**October 16, 2024**

**Dr. Gerald P. Mallon**

# Supporting LGBTQ+ Children and Young People

There are a range of ways you can help support the LGBTQ+ children, young people and families you work with.

And . . .

Every social worker and every social service agency can and should do this!

## Understanding an LGBTQ+ Young Person's Lived Experience

It's important to remember that any child or young person you're working with could be LGBTQ+, whether or not they have disclosed their sexual orientation or gender expression to you.

# Three Areas to Consider in This Seminar

**What Do LGBTQ+ Youth Need from Social Work Professionals?**

**What Do Agencies and Policy Makers Need to Be Competent in Practicing with LGBTQ+ Children, Youth, and Families**

**What You Can Do Personally!**

## What Do LGBTQ+ Youth Need from Social Work Professionals?

Professionals who are “fit to practice” means adhering to the Standards of Conduct and Practice which involves required attitudes, behaviours and competence, rather than using your personal or religious values to guide you in your practice.

## What Do LGBTQ+ Youth Need from Social Work Professionals?

Social Workers who have done their homework, i.e. look for ways to expand their fund of knowledge about LGBTQ+ children, youth, and families. Don't expect the youth to educate you – do your own homework – read, know the resources, do some research, talk to LGBTQ+ people with lived experience – cultural guides

## What Do LGBTQ+ Youth Need from Social Work Professionals?

To actively engage families in helping/supporting their LGBTQ+ child

To employ the skills necessary to help families support their LGBTQ+ child, and to be brave enough to challenge the bias, myths, and lies about LGBTQ+ persons

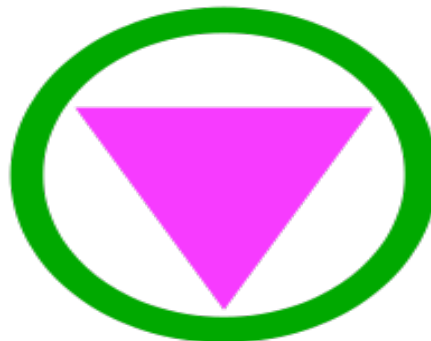


**I don't understand why people think that having a GAY child means they failed as a parent. Disowning your child means you failed as a parent.**



# What Do LGBTQ+ Youth Need from Social Work Professionals?

To forcefully reject and work toward eliminating all conversion practices – they do not work and are harmful to LGBTQ+ children and youth



# What Do LGBTQ+ Youth Need from Social Work Professionals?

To support accessible gender affirming healthcare services for trans youth – to vociferously speak against politicians that make health care decisions and legislation that are politically motivated, harmful to these young people and NOT in the best interest of trans children, youth, and their families.

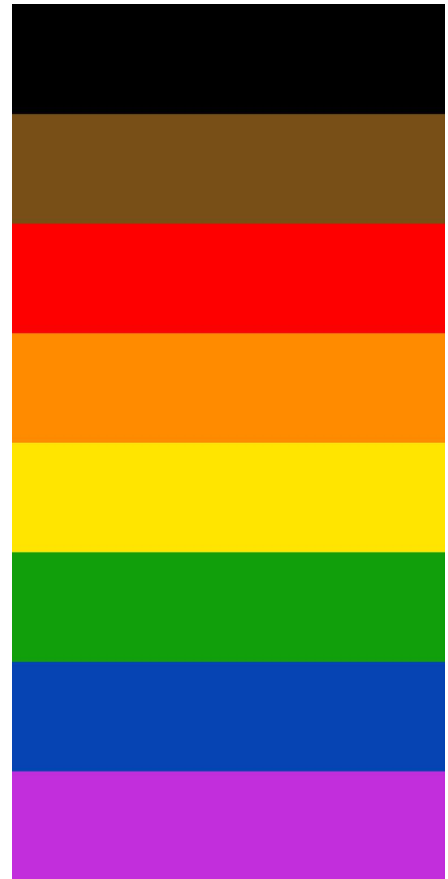
# What Do LGBTQ+ Youth Need from Social Work Professionals?

To work toward tackling anti-LGBTQ+ hate crimes through advocacy and legislation



# What Do LGBTQ+ Youth Need from Social Work Professionals?

To work toward delivering LGBTQ+ inclusive education, particularly with respect to relationships and sexuality education



# What Do Agencies and Policy Makers Need to Be Competent in Practicing with LGBTQ+ Children, Youth, and Families

To create LGBTQ+ affirming  
environments in agencies



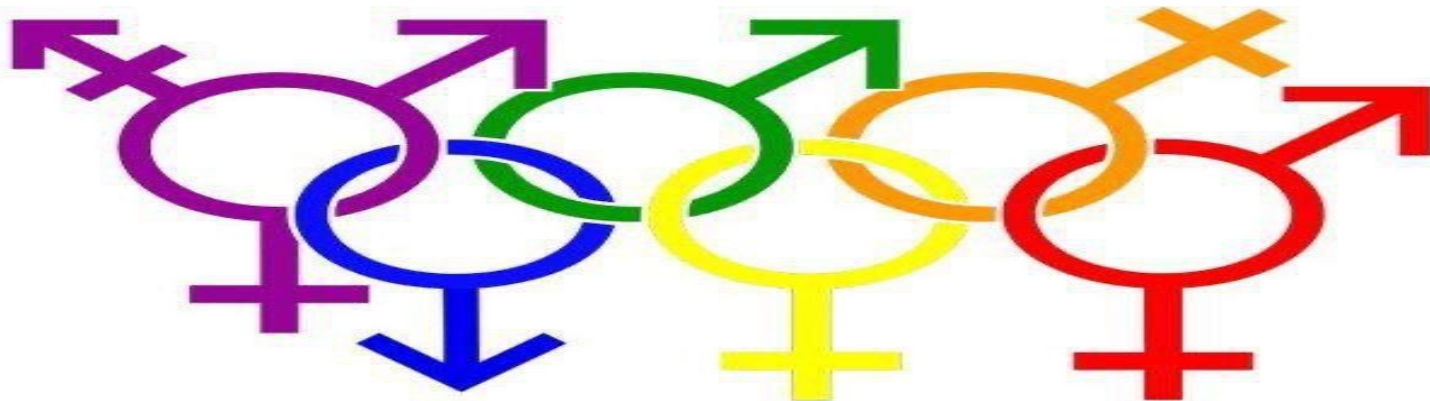
# What Do Agencies and Policy Makers Need to Be Competent in Practicing with LGBTQ+ Children, Youth, and Families

Help organizations to develop written policies,  
appropriate and supportive supervisory practices  
and coaching about sexual orientation and gender  
identity expression



# What Do Agencies and Policy Makers Need to Be Competent in Practicing with LGBTQ+ Children, Youth, and Families

To have consequences for professionals who  
refuse to provide LGBTQ+ affirming care for these  
young people



# What Do Agencies and Policy Makers Need to Be Competent in Practicing with LGBTQ+ Children, Youth, and Families


To partner with LGBTQ+ organisations to assist  
you with resources, services, and training







**What Do  
Agencies and  
Policy Makers  
Need to Be  
Competent in  
Practicing  
with LGBTQ+  
Children,  
Youth, and  
Families**



To work toward assisting faith communities to be supportive of LGBTQ+ youth, or finding supportive faith communities that are welcoming to LGBTQ+ people

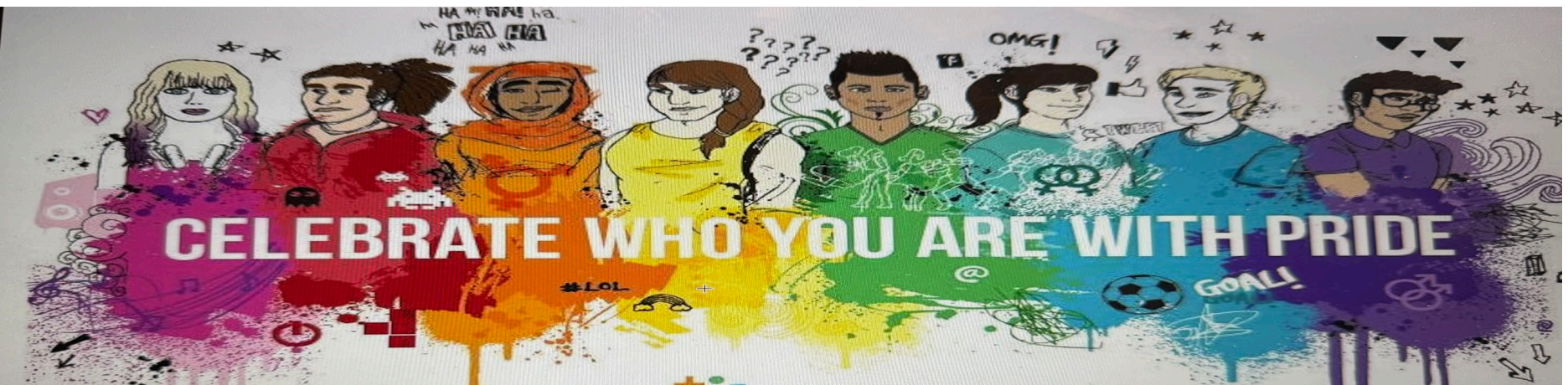


**What Do  
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To hold political leaders accountable for making responsible decisions that affect the lives of LGBTQ+ children youth and families rather than making decisions that are politically expedient for them

# What Do Agencies and Policy Makers Need to Be Competent in Practicing with LGBTQ+ Children, Youth, and Families

To be an active advocate for LGBTQ+ children,  
youth, and families when bias, discrimination, or  
outright hatred is being perpetrated



# What You Can Do Personally!

- Don't accept anti- LGBTQ+ behavior
- Don't laugh at LGBTQ+ jokes, even those that your own family might make
- Deal with the big red button on top of your head – what are YOUR issues about LGBTQ+ identity
- Realize it doesn't matter if "You don't get it"
- Most importantly, how can you help parents to continue to love that LGBTQ+ child as they are

# What You Can Do Personally!

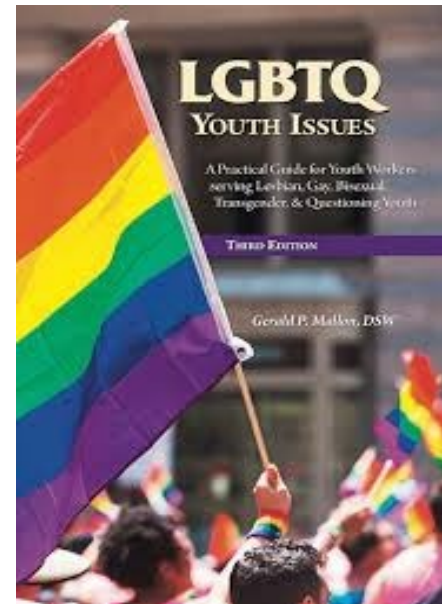
- Be brave in your practice and support of LGBTQ+ young people and their families
- Be prepared for backlash from colleagues and communities
- Remember what we are called to do as social work professionals – Working Together to Make a Difference
- Know that your competent action or inaction can make a difference in the life of an LGBTQ+ youth



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Social Work Practice with  
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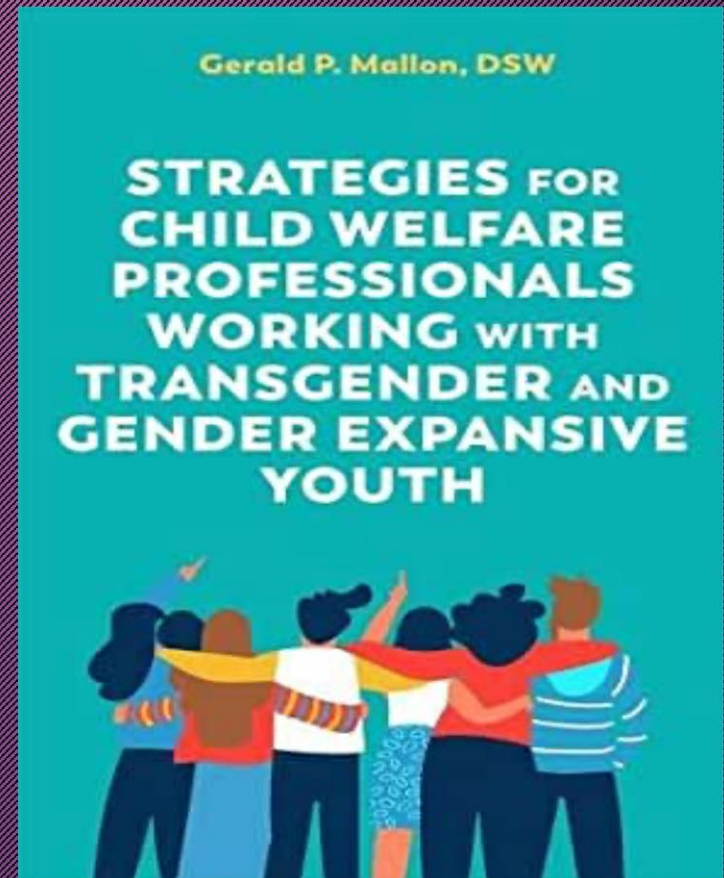
THIRD EDITION

Edited by Gerald P. Mallon



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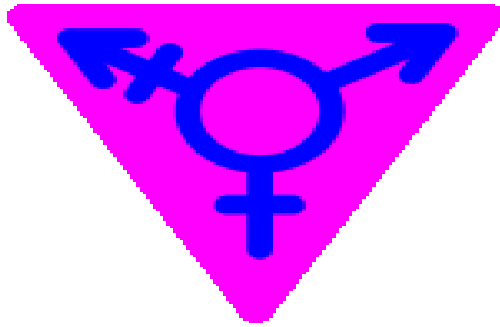


**SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE  
WITH TRANSGENDER AND  
GENDER EXPANSIVE YOUTH**

THIRD EDITION

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**SAFE  
ZONE**

The "Safe Zone" symbol is a message to gay, lesbian, transgender & bisexual youth & adult allies. The message is that a person displaying this symbol is one who will be understanding, supportive & trustworthy if a gay, lesbian, transgender or bisexual youth needs help, advice, or just someone to talk to.

